

# **Deep Science In Ancient Indian Philosophical Thought**

Anil K Rajvanshi

# Deep Science in Ancient Indian Philosophical Thought

© Nimbkar Agricultural Research Institute, 2025

ISBN: 978-81-905781-9-6

## Published by

Nimbkar Agricultural Research Institute (NARI)

Tambmal, Phaltan-Lonand Road,

P.O. Box 44,

Phaltan – 415523,

Maharashtra, India

[nariphaltan@gmail.com](mailto:nariphaltan@gmail.com)

## Cover Design

Anil K Rajvanshi

## Author

[Anil K Rajvanshi](#)

Email: [anilrajvanshi50@gmail.com](mailto:anilrajvanshi50@gmail.com)

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, putting on the web or any information storage and retrieval system, without the written permission of the publisher.

The book is also available in Kindle store. <https://www.amazon.in/dp/BoGCZS4QY7>

## Preface

[\(Audio file is here\)](#)

I have always been intrigued by the deep science embedded in ancient Indian philosophical thought. Whether it is [Patanjali Yoga Sutras](#); Gita; [Sankhya Philosophy](#); Upanishads; etc. - all of them contain some gems of fundamental science if we study them deeply and read between the lines.

Too often the ancient Indian scriptures were interpreted as simply a treatise on how to live properly but I feel the authors of these documents were great scientists or [could have even come from other planets](#)! And with time the deep science was lost or misinterpreted, and lot of sutras or shlokas were omitted since the subsequent commentators did not understand the science. This book is my small attempt to address this issue.

The starting point has been [Patanjali Yoga Sutras \(PYS\)](#). I believe it is one of the most scientific ancient texts and probably the distillation of all the knowledge about mind, space and time that existed at that time. The science embedded in PYS is remarkable and most of the material described in the book constantly alludes to it.

One can ask a question; why are we interested in finding science in ancient scriptures? Some even can say that we are unnecessarily interpreting the sutras or shlokas and trying to embed science in them when it did not exist. Or we are just doing it to glorify the ancient Indian thought.

I feel that the natural course of evolution of human-like forms and beings is galactic travel. We are following this route. As we advance technologically, galactic travel is the next frontier, and we are following that goal. It is my belief that this planet was seeded periodically by evolved humans who came from a technologically advanced civilization and another planet. That might explain the cause and reason of such a huge human brain. Evolutionary forces could not

have produced such a brain size on this planet. They may have mated with humanoids who evolved on this planet earth.

If this thesis is correct, then the ancients wrote about the accounts of science and space travel. And those are found in the scriptures. With time, this knowledge got reduced, diluted and corrupted. But what we see today are the glimpses of those great ideas of science regarding time and space.

Hence, by reading between the lines, we may be able to gather some hidden gems from these ancient scriptures which might help us to find new scientific laws, inventions and discoveries. That is the reason why we are interested in reading these scriptures and interpreting them in the light of modern science and technology knowledge.

The comparison of information in scriptures with modern science is neither to glorify our ancient tradition nor to belittle the latter – both are important in their own way; but to show that all great knowledge originates from the [same knowledge space](#) irrespective of the person and the time of its discovery.

However, there are strange descriptions of [weapons with extraordinary powers](#) in Mahabharat and [flying machines in Ramayana](#) and other scriptures but there is no clue about the design of these technologies - just descriptions. Though they are fascinating things but is not the subject of this book. I have therefore focused on the ancient knowledge which we can evaluate in the light of present science and technology and use them in the present context.

My desire to present this line of thinking evolved slowly and over time. As I read more deeply into these ancient books, I realised that there are some great scientific truths and knowledge which have remained hidden. The desire to unearth them is the subject of this book ([my eighth book](#)).

I have been writing on these issues [since early 2000](#) and hence thought of putting most of them in one place. I have selected a few of my articles which give the essence of the thesis. What I have written is the tip of iceberg. The ancient

Indian philosophical literature is vast and to delve deeply and read between the lines in all of them is beyond the scope of one's lifetime.

Very often one has a desire to look at the ancient texts and subjects from the modern perspective. Newton spent half his life trying to decipher Bible from the perspective of his knowledge at that time. Similarly, we are fascinated by great works of [Panchatantra](#); [Chanakya](#); [Kalidas](#); Shakespeare among others and try to see how they fit in our present scheme of things.

The value of ancient books becomes manifold when they can explain the situation in modern world. This is the motive of writing this book. As an engineer I have always tried to interpret ancient texts with the knowledge of existing science and technology.

All books have an element of biographical material in them. This is no different. This is my eighth book. I have written about the issues of spirituality and technology in many articles and books and writing this book also made me [reflect on my life](#) and what are the forces which made me write [such books on spirituality](#).

All the articles presented in this book have also helped me into a new line of thinking and a mantra: [Spirituality + Technology = Sustainability and Happiness](#). I feel this provides a new paradigm of development not only for India but for the whole world. And I hope interested readers may be inspired to undertake their own study of ancient texts in the light of framework outlined in this book.

### **Structure of the book**

This is an e-book and is divided **into two sections**. *The first is the theme section* where deep science in Patanjali yoga sutras (PYS) are analysed in part I. Patanjali always talked about mind and thoughts but did not talk about the origin of thought. So, part II deals with the nature of thought, its production, transmission and interaction with matter. We also get the glimpses of these ideas in PYS, and they are alluded in appropriate places.

The whole basis of Indian philosophy is to remove pain which is achieved by *moksha* or liberation from the cycle of birth and death. Part III discusses the issue of death from a scientific point of view based on the removal of neural and cellular memories from the body so that the fear and pain of death is reduced. This section also relates to death theme in some scriptures.

In all Indian philosophical books, there are always detailed descriptions of how to live a good life for ultimate liberation. Section IV describes one such paradigm of living and development based on modern science and technology and how it relates to the ideas found in scriptures.

There are overlaps in the subject matter of theme articles since they were written as standalone and in-depth articles. I have left them as they are since each theme is self-contained.

*The second general section* contains essays which are also standalone and complement the articles in the theme section. These essays point out certain aspects not covered in the theme articles. And they are arranged in chronological order of theme articles (indicated in parenthesis).

All articles both in theme section and in general section can be accessed by clicking their URL links given below. Since this is an e-book hence the references can be accessed by clicking the appropriate links in the body of the articles and essays.

Happy reading.

[Audio file is here](#)

[Anil K Rajvanshi](#)

November 2025

## Contents

### Themes

- I. [Deep Science in Patanjali Yoga Sutra](#)
- II. [What is thought, its production, transmission and interaction with matter](#)
- III. [What is Death and can we reduce its fear](#)
- IV. [How technology guided by spirituality can produce sustainability and happiness](#)

### General Section

1. [Ancients Knew about Time](#) (Theme I)
2. [Spiritual nature of Discovery](#) (Theme II)
3. [What is consciousness](#) (Theme II)
4. [Genesis of fear](#) (Theme III)
5. [How Universe came into being or Nature of Form](#) (Theme III)
6. [Why life? and its purpose](#) (Theme III)
7. [Science of Pranayama](#) (Theme IV)
8. [How sinuses may help in humming](#) (Theme IV)
9. [Lessons from India's spiritual tradition](#) (Theme IV)

### Epilogue

### Book Review

### Acknowledgements

I am deeply indebted to my elder daughter [Noorie Rajvanshi](#) and my wife [Nandini Nimbkar](#) for discussions, advice and editing.

## Epilogue

India has produced some of the greatest spiritual thought of mankind. The ancient spiritual thought was very scientific in nature and based on deep inquiry of truth. The *Upanishads*, *Patanjali Yoga Sutras*, *Bhagwat Gita.*, etc., are part of that great tradition.

As an engineer I have always looked at the scriptures and ancient Indian philosophical thought from a scientific point of view. The spirit of enquiry and my scientific training have helped me in this pursuit.

As I have read deeply in some of the scriptures (it is not possible to delve in all of them – one lifetime is not enough for such an exercise), I have found some scientific gems in them and those I have highlighted in the book. The starting point has been [Patanjali Yoga Sutras](#) (PYS). The science embedded in them is really remarkable and it has been very enjoyable to study them.

I feel such an exercise might also help us find new scientific laws, inventions and discoveries. That is the reason why we are interested in reading these scriptures and interpreting them in the light of modern science and technology knowledge.

Very often one feels a desire to look at the ancient texts and subjects from the modern perspective. [Isaac Newton spent half his life trying to decipher Bible](#) from the perspective of his scientific knowledge at that time.

Similarly, we are fascinated by great works of Panchatantra; [Chanakya](#), [Kalidas](#), Shakespeare and try to see how they fit in our present scheme of things. The value of ancient books becomes manifold when they can explain the situation in modern world. This was the motive of writing this book.

Nevertheless, the comparison of information in scriptures with modern science is neither to glorify our ancient tradition nor to belittle the latter – both are important in their own way; but to show that all great knowledge originates from



the [same knowledge space](#) irrespective of the person and the time of its discovery.

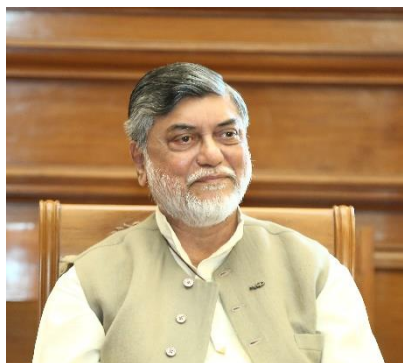
All the material presented in the book have also helped me develop a new line of thinking and a mantra: [Spirituality + Technology = Sustainability and Happiness](#). I feel this provides a new paradigm of development not only for India but for the whole world and was mostly inspired by my understanding of science in ancient Indian scriptures. In fact, this is one of the central themes of the book.

I hope the readers have enjoyed reading the book. It is also my hope that they may be inspired to undertake their own study of ancient texts in the light of framework outlined in this book.

[HOME](#)

December 2025

## About the Author



[Dr. Anil K. Rajvanshi](#) has more than 42 years of experience in renewable energy R&D and rural development. He did his B. Tech and M.Tech in Mechanical Engineering from Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur in 1972 and 1974 respectively. He received his Ph.D. in Mech. Engg. from University of Florida, Gainesville, USA in 1979 under solar energy pioneer Dr. Eric Farber. He was on the faculty of University of Florida (Dept. of Mechanical Engineering) for 2 years before returning to India in 1981 to run his own rural NGO – [Nimbkar Agricultural Research Institute](#)

[\(NARI\)](#) in Phaltan, Maharashtra.

NARI has done pioneering work in agriculture, renewable energy, and sustainable development, especially those affecting rural population. Dr. Rajvanshi has devoted the last 44 years at NARI to [apply sophisticated science and technology to solve the problems faced by the rural people](#) in the areas of energy, water, pollution, and income generation; broadly based on use of renewable energy in environmentally sound ways.

Dr. Rajvanshi has written extensively on his work on rural self-sufficiency. He has more than 250 publications; [eight books and chapters in various books](#); and 7 patents to his credit. He has been inducted into several prominent committees of the Government of India (GOI) at the national and state level. He is the principal author of the Govt. of India national policy on [Energy Self Sufficient Talukas](#).

For his work, Dr. Rajvanshi has received a number of prestigious national and international awards, such as [Jamnalal Bajaj Award](#); induction to the [U.S. based Solar Hall of Fame](#); Austria based Energy Globe Award; Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industries [\(FICCI\) Annual Award](#); Sweden based [Globe Award](#); [Distinguished Alumnus Award from University of Florida](#) (he is the first Indian to receive this award); [Padma Shri](#) (one of the highest civilian awards from GOI); [Distinguished Alumnus Award from IIT Kanpur](#); [Legends of IIT Kanpur](#); among others.

He has been a featured speaker at many prominent institutes, conferences, and forums, both in India and abroad and [lectures regularly on the issues of sustainability and rural development](#).

Besides his engineering work, he is also involved in studies of human consciousness and the interaction of spirituality and technology. His [writings](#) on these issues have appeared regularly in [Times of India](#); [Huffington Post](#) ; [Thrive Global](#); [South Asia Monitor](#), among others. He has also written [three books on these issues](#).

[HOME](#)